



**Request for City Council Committee Action
from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development**

Date: March 5, 2013

To: Councilmember Betsy Hodges, Ways and Means Committee

Prepared and Submitted by: Joseph Bernard, Senior City Planner, (612) 673-2422

Approved by: Jack Byers, Interim Director of CPED Long Range Planning Division

Presenter in Committee: Joseph Bernard, Senior City Planner

Subject: Accept federal grant through Minnesota Historical Society to conduct historic resource survey and appropriate CPED-Long Range Planning Division budget

Recommendation:

- 1) Authorize acceptance of the federal Certified Local Government (CLG) grant, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society to revise the City's survey of historic resources.
- 2) Amend the General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development agency Federal Fund (01300-8900420) by \$21,000.
- 3) Increase the Revenue Budget for the Community Planning and Economic Development agency Federal Fund (01300-8900420-321009) by \$21,000.

Previous Directives:

None

Financial Impact

- ☒ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- ☒ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Community Impact:

Neighborhood Notification: Neighborhood organizations will receive notification of the project and the public involvement process.

Ward: All wards.

City Goals: Consistent with the following goal:

ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT

In five years there will be plentiful green spaces, public gathering areas, celebrated historic architectural features and urban forests in Minneapolis; lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be clean; the city's parks and the Mississippi riverfront will be valued and utilized; opportunities to experience diverse cultures and the arts will abound; and usage of renewable energy will be increasing.

Comprehensive Plan: Consistent with the following policies and implementation steps of The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth

Policy 8.2: Continue to evaluate potential historic resources for future studies and designation as the city ages.

8.2.1 Future surveys should focus on completion of a basic or reconnaissance survey of the entire city which incorporates nominations of potential landmarks or historic districts.

Policy 8.6: Provide educational, financial, technical, and regulatory assistance to ensure the survival of the city's historic resources.

Policy 8.12: Raise awareness of the history of Minneapolis and promote the quality of the built environment.

8.12.1 Promote heritage preservation planning efforts to important stakeholders, including other city offices, the public, and preservation organizations.

8.12.2 Continue to work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and preservation organizations to promote education and incentive programs.

8.12.3 Involve residents and neighborhood organizations in review of heritage preservation applications.

8.12.5 Provide educational activities, such as walking tours, to foster appreciation of Minneapolis' history and the built and natural environment.

Supporting Information

Background:

The Certified Local Government (CLG) grant is a federal grant administered through the Minnesota State Historic preservation Office of the MN Historical Society. Since 1983, as a Certified Local Government, the City of Minneapolis has been eligible to apply for, and has received grants for projects such as historic theme studies, landmark designations, and historic resource surveys. The proposed grant application is part of a long-term plan to survey historic resources throughout the City of Minneapolis.

In 1999, recognizing that additional intensive survey was needed to penetrate beyond those most obvious, initial designations, the Minneapolis City Council set aside \$100,000 to be used specifically as matching funds for a citywide historic re-survey effort. Since that time, Minneapolis has applied for, received, and matched ten CLG grants. For each grant, professional historic consultants were hired to conduct reconnaissance level surveys for ten different geographic sections and subsections of the city (see attached map). The product of these efforts includes twelve survey reports, a comprehensive database of inventoried properties, and an extensive hard-copy file system that collects and retains information for over 10,000 properties that are considered eligible or in need of further research.

The resulting accumulated work has been enormously beneficial for advancing the goals of the city preservation plan and the statewide preservation plan. That said, this large-scale monumental effort was conducted incrementally. As such, the City will benefit greatly from a “capstone” evaluation effort that irons out minor inconsistencies, fills in gaps that were not known or recognized at the inception of the project, and brings forth salient discoveries made across the collection of efforts. For example, modernist resources, cultural landscapes, and transit-oriented development are all realities of today’s preservation planning practice, but these terms were barely uttered, let alone understood ten years ago when this project was initiated. Most importantly, the breadth and scope of both large and small-scale public investment and private development that takes place in the state’s largest city, calls forth the need for a well-reasoned set of priorities for follow-up designations.

The number and kind of development pressures inherent in Minneapolis – as a growth center for business and culture, as a regional transportation hub, and in relation to renewed interest in city living – call up the need to be thoughtful and strategic about which properties might be most vulnerable and how they can be preserved and stabilized. The moment for sorting out, weaving together, and thinking comprehensively about the entire body of eligible resources in Minneapolis is particularly opportune given the tremendous possibilities that come from new funding tools such as the state historic preservation tax credit and Legacy funds.

The Minnesota Historical Society approved a grant totaling \$21,000. CPED is requesting that the City accept the grant for \$21,000. CPED will match the grant with \$10,000 within the department budget in addition to \$12,500 through an in-kind commitment of staff time.

Attachments:

- A. May 3, 2012 Award letter from the Minnesota Historical Society for the CLG grant
- B. Map of previous CLG survey areas